

## Task information

- Part 4 consists of five questions (plus one example).
- Each question has a set of three sentences, each with a gap.
- You must find one word which can fill the gap in all three sentences.
- The focus of the task is on vocabulary knowledge and you need to know how words are used with a range of meanings and in different contexts.
- You must spell the words correctly – US and UK spellings are both accepted.

## Useful language: being aware of polysemy

- 1** Words in English often have a number of different meanings. (The linguistics term for this is *polysemy*.) Work with a partner if possible. How many different meanings can you think of for these words? Write a phrase as an example for each meaning.

mean .....  
 flat .....  
 bar .....  
 set .....  
 term .....

- 2** Look up the words in Exercise 1 in a good dictionary (you could, for example, use the online dictionary at <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>). Note down some other phrases using each of these words.

mean .....  
 flat .....  
 bar .....  
 set .....  
 term .....

**Tip!** When you learn a new word in English, check (in a good learner's dictionary) to see if it has any other meanings.

**Tip!** It is often the short and high frequency words that have many different meanings and uses. Have a page each for words like this in your vocabulary notebook and collect examples of the word in use.

## Useful language: noticing collocations

- 1** Having a good knowledge of collocations will help you to find the answers to this task. Choose three words from the box to make three different collocations for each of the words provided.

a conclusion	attention	bend	bloom	boost	break
comfortable	convincing	factor	figure	flames	flat
high-heeled	money	obey	plausible	play	point
simple	song	stimulate	stunt	tears	your feet

- |              |              |            |                   |
|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| <b>1</b>     | .....        | <b>2</b>   | .....             |
| to           | ..... growth | a          | ..... explanation |
|              | .....        |            | .....             |
| <b>3</b>     | .....        | <b>4</b>   | .....             |
| to come into | .....        | to jump to | .....             |
|              | .....        |            | .....             |

**Tip!** Many good learner's dictionaries have collocations boxes which give you information about words that typically collocate.

- 5 .....  
a key .....  
.....
- 6 .....  
to ..... the rules  
.....
- 7 .....  
to burst into .....  
.....
- 8 .....  
..... shoes  
.....

**2 The answers to the following exercise all depend on collocations. Find the word that fits in each group of three sentences. Then write down the collocating phrase from each sentence.**

**Tip!** As you read and listen to English try to notice the collocations that people use and make a note of any that you find interesting or surprising.

- 1**  
Can you ..... an eye out for a petrol station – we'll need one soon.  
Please don't forget to ..... in touch when you go back to your own country.  
Only tell Rosa if you're sure she can ..... a secret.
- 2**  
Let's ..... for lunch now.  
Are you going to ..... the news to Marie or shall I?  
Gemma will ..... Rob's heart if she decides to leave town.
- 3**  
The children soon lost ..... in the game.  
Our savings have not accumulated much .....  
Although they are divorced, Paul's ex-wife retains a legal ..... in his business.
- 4**  
The old man could not take ..... food for a couple of days after his operation.  
The police say that there is no ..... evidence that Walter committed the crime.  
The figurine was made of ..... gold.
- 5**  
Sweet fizzy drinks are a ..... cause of tooth decay.  
The new government is planning to introduce some ..... changes to the education system.  
The comic books he enjoyed as a child are a ..... influence on Henry's work.
- 6**  
The children's safety is my sole .....  
The business took some time to establish itself but it is now a going .....  
There is increasing public ..... about the state of the country's rail service.
- 7**  
Flora felt very ..... for herself after having her wisdom teeth out.  
I know you don't like wearing a cycle helmet but better safe than .....  
It's a ..... state of affairs when the city's roads are completely gridlocked.
- 8**  
These papers mustn't ..... into the wrong hands.  
Take a scarf – there's a chilly wind and I don't want you to ..... ill.  
Everything seemed to ..... apart at the seams when Joe left.

## Action plan

- 1 Read each set of sentences.
- 2 Note down any words that seem to fit in each gap – try them in the other gaps too, until you find one that fits them all.
- 3 Don't spend too long puzzling over the first sentence in each set – the second and third ones may suggest the answer more quickly.
- 4 Remember that there will often be several different words that could fill each gap – you have to find the only word that will fit in all three sentences.
- 5 Write your answer in CAPITAL LETTERS.
- 6 Check your spelling.
- 7 At the end of the test, carefully transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

Follow the exam instructions, using the advice to help you.

**Tip!** Read each set of sentences again to make sure the word you have chosen fits in all three gaps.

For questions 38–42, think of **one** word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. Here is an example (0).

**Example:**

- 0 It's hard to ..... how old James is – he behaves as if he's middle-aged but looks quite young.  
Katie has been under a lot of stress recently and it's beginning to ..... on her health.  
At the beginning of the lesson I often ask the children in my class to ..... me a story.

**Example:**

0

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- 38 The old maths teacher always used to ..... us a lot of homework.  
The judge's decision ..... a precedent for similar cases.  
I hoped I've managed to ..... your mind at rest.
- 39 I can't see the ..... of going so far for such a short time.  
There was a ..... of excitement in the theatre as the curtain rose.  
You are in no ..... obliged to do what she has asked you to do.
- 40 If you move along a little there'll be enough ..... at the table for us all.  
Your work is getting better but there is still ..... for improvement.  
There's a fitting ..... over there if you want to try anything on.
- 41 I didn't find the ..... of the film totally convincing, did you?  
The science teacher asked the class to ..... the results of their experiment on a graph.  
The police claim to have uncovered a ..... to break into Parliament.
- 42 Restaurants often use ..... lighting because it is more flattering.  
The government was criticised for taking too ..... a line on crime.  
The café sells a wide range of ..... drinks.

## Advice

**38** Read the third sentence first – it may have the best-known use of the required word.

**41** In the second sentence the word is used as a verb and in 1 and 3 it is a noun – but the form of the word is still the same.

## Follow-up

Why do you think this kind of question is included in the test?